

A WITHDRAWAL SLIP

to keep the enrollment at its beefy 30,000-plus, our politically-pointed president has scoured the Orient and Congo to encourage minorities to sign in, please.

thus, it's no rarity to face an intro to lit class with 12 of 30 clearly confused inscrutables.

this summer a polite young japanese sat mute "Among School Children," Oedipus, Hamlet, Willy Loman, from Marlowe to Macomber, then asked to withdraw at deadline.

in a three-minute monolog, i tried to express feeling for his problem: asked to spot denouement in a Pinter play, non sequiturs in Wilde scenes, enjambment in Housman and Hardy lines, in a language where his fluency hopefully leads him to the right bathroom.

for my signature, he modulated a well-turned thank you. when he was gone, i realized he had understood not much said during this period either.

-- Charles Stetler

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